

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-15 CPR-01 EB-07 OPR-02 /036 W

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R 231245Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2635

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANJUL 0631

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC GA

SUBJ: IV NOMINEE SHERIFF SEKOUBA SISAY

REF : BANJUL 619

1. IN ADDITION TO INFO IN PARA 2 REFTEL, NATIONALITY: GAMBIAN. PERMANENT ADDRESS: 60B NEW PERSEVERANCE ST, BANJUL. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: ARMITAGE SCHOOL, GEORGETOWN, THE GAMBIA. LAW STUDENT, MIDDLE TEMPLE, INNS OF COURT, LONDON; LONDON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY. GOV SISAY IS A MUSLIM, MARRIED TO A CHRISTIAN. NO PORK OR ALCOHOL; TIME FOR DAILY DEVOTIONS AFTERNOONS AND ATTENDANCE AT MOSQUE ON FRIDAY WHERE FEASIBLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED. HONORS: COMMANDER, NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT, THE GAMBIA; COMMANDER, NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT, SENEGAL; COMMANDER, NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT, MAURITANIA. GOV SISAY HAS VISITED WASHINGTON BRIEFLY SEVERAL TIMES TO ATTEND IBRD MEETINGS. HE HAS NEVER TRAVELED THERE AT USG EXPENSE NOR OUTSIDE WASHINGTON AT ANY TIME. HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA. HE HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN EUROPE, AFRICA AND THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

2. GOVERNOR SISAY IS DIGNIFIED, QUIET-SPOKEN, HANDSOME, DISTINGUISHED GAMBIAN, RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT. HE HAS NO UNIVERSITY DEGREE BUT IS CULTIVATED, WELL-READ AND INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT AMERICAN SOCIETY, BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS. HE IS, UP TO NOW, VERY MUCH BRITISH-ORIENTED IN ECONOMICS, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUSINESS, LAW. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH; SPEAKS NO OTHER

LANGUAGE. PROPOSED VISIT IS OPPORTUNITY TO BALANCE RATHER THAN OFFSET SISAY'S CURRENT ANGLOPHILE PERSPECTIVES.

3. AREA OF FOCUS. DESPITE GAPS IN FORMAL EDUCATION, GOVERNOR DESCRIBED BY CLOSE ASSOCIATE (SENIOR AMERICAN ECONOMIST ON STAFF) AS ASTUTE PRACTICAL ECONOMIST WITH GOOD GRASP OF FUNDAMENTALS OF BANKING, FINANCE, AND LAW. HE WILL BE INTERESTED IN SAME AREAS OF U.S. ECONOMY. FROM PERSONAL STANDPOINT, WILL BE SEEKING DETAILED INFORMATION, CONTACTS, VISITS TO APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITIES, FOUNDATIONS, CENTERS OF ADVANCED ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS STUDIES IN PREPARATION FOR PLANNED YEAR'S ADVANCE STUDY IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE WITH EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT.

4. IN WASHINGTON, INTERESTED IN CONTACTS WITH OMB AND GAO FOR BRIEFINGS ON ROLE OF BOTH AGENCIES IN PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY MIGHT BE ADAPTED TO DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE GAMBIA. ADDITIONALLY, INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF EXIM AND INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND IN SEEING LOCAL HISTORICAL SIGHTS AND APPROPRIATE BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON AND VICINITY THROUGHOUT U.S. VISIT. IN KEEPING WITH GAMBIAN OFFICIAL CONCERN FOR OBSERVANCE OF PROTOCOLARY NICETIES, AF/W SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON CALLS TO BE MADE WITHIN DEPT, PARTICULARLY WITHIN AF AND EB.

5. GOVERNOR SISAY WILL BE INTERESTED IN LOOKING OVER SMITHSONIAN-BASED WOODROW WILSON CENTER, JOHNS HOPKINS SAIS AND IN MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF FEDERAL RESERVE BANK'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND U.S. TREASURY OFFICIALS.

6. ESCORT SHOULD BE VERY CAREFULLY SELECTED TO ASSURE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COMPATIBILITY OF INTERESTS. HE SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN FINANCE, BANKING, AND ECONOMICS WITH THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND INTERPRET DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN U.S. AND BRITISH SYSTEMS. ESCORT SHOULD BE ONE WHO CAN DRAW OUT QUESTIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF VIEWS FROM USUALLY RETICENT SISAY RATHER THAN OVERWHELMING HIM WITH FACTS, OPINION AND OWN PRECONCEIVED VIEWS. THEREFORE, OLDER. MORE SENIOR ESCORT DESIRABLE.

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7. GOVERNOR CONSCIOUS OF PREROGATIVES, TENDS TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICAN MOTIVES AND NEEDS TO BE HELPED TO FORM OWN OPINIONS RATHER THAN BE FORCE-FED. AS PRACTICING MUSLIM WILL WANT TIME FOR PRIVATE DEVOTIONS AND SOME TIME TO BE QUIET EACH DAY, PREFERABLY IN AFTERNOONS. BANJUL'S AID OFFICER SUGGESTS RETIRED U.S. TREASURY OFFICIAL HENRY BITTERMAN (HUSBAND OF KAY BITTERMAN, AID/FFP OFFICER), AS

TYPE OF ESCORT WE ARE RECOMMENDING. BITTERMANS LIVE IN
DC/CHEVY CHASE AREA.

8. OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, RECOMMEND ONE WEEK IN CALIFORNIA FOR
VISITS RAND CORPORATION, SANTA MONICA; UC BERKELEY, STANFORD
CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, BANK OF AMERICA,
S.F., AND APPROPRIATE VISITS TO HISTORIC SITES. ETC.

9. DAY OR TWO IN CHICAGO TO INCLUDE U. CHICAGO CENTER FOR
MONETARY STUDIES. BALANCE OF TIME SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY
DIVIDED BETWEEN BOSTON (HARVARD/LITTAUER CENTER; FIRST
BOSTON CORP); NEW HAVEN, YALE GROWTH CENTER; NEW YORK FEDERAL
RESERVE BANK, CHASE MANHATTAN, HUDSON INSTITUTE; PRINCETON
U/WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES; PHILA-
DELPHIA, WHARTON SCHOOL. PROBABLY NEITHER NECESSARY NOR
ADVISABLE TO VISIT EVERY SCHOOL OR ADVANCED STUDY CENTER
ON LIST. CERTAIN ONES COULD BE SORTED OUT AND SOME ELIMINATED
DURING WASHINGTON FINAL PROGRAMMING CONFERENCE.

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10. IN KEEPING WITH THE GAMBIA S DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS,
GOVERNOR INTERESTED IN MODERN U.S. AGRICULTURAL METHODS,
FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AGRIBUSINESS;
HOW PURCHASES OF EXPENSIVE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY BY INDIV-
IDUAL FARMERS ARE FINANCED, HOW THEY ARE HANDLED FOR TAX
PURPOSES.
MCFARLAND

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